

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2312

To amend section 1584 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that forcing immigrants into slave labor by withholding immigration documents, or by threatening to involve immigration authorities, is a violation of such section.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend section 1584 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that forcing immigrants into slave labor by withholding immigration documents, or by threatening to involve immigration authorities, is a violation of such section.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This act may be cited as the “Immigrant Slave Trade  
5 Punishment Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.**

2 Section 1584 of title 18, United States Code, is  
3 amended—

4 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “Whoever”;

5 (2) by inserting at the end the following:

6 “(b) Whoever for pecuniary gain violates subsection  
7 (a) with respect to five or more persons shall be impris-  
8 oned for not less than 20 years or for life.

9 “(c) For purposes of this section, the term “involun-  
10 tary servitude” includes any circumstance under which  
11 any legal or illegal immigrant is coerced to work through  
12 withholding of the immigrant’s immigration documents, or  
13 through threatening to report an illegal immigrant to the  
14 authorities.”; and

15 (3) in the heading by striking “**Sale into involun-**  
16 **tary**”, and inserting “**Involuntary**”.

17 **SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

18 The table of sections for chapter 77 of title 18,  
19 United States Code, is amended in the matter relating to  
20 section 1584 by striking “Sale into involuntary” and in-  
21 serting “Involuntary”.

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